

**Office of
the Mayor
Burlington,
Vermont**



**Bob Kiss
Mayor**
Room 34, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401
Tel: (802) 865-7272
Fax: (802) 865-7270
TDD: (802) 865-7142

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Joe Reinert
Assistant to the Mayor
865-7275

**MAYOR KISS SIGNS COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING ARIZONA
IMMIGRATION LAW**

U.S. Conference of Mayors Also Passes Resolution Opposing Law

Burlington, VT – June 17, 2010. Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss today signed into effect a City Council resolution regarding Arizona law SB 1070. The resolution, titled “Opposing Arizona State Law SB 1070 and Affirming Burlington as a City of Immigrants,” was passed by the Council at its June 14 meeting. The resolution comes at the same time that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, of which Burlington is a member, passed its own resolution opposing the Arizona law which has sparked controversy across the country.

Burlington’s resolution provides for the following:

- Formally state’s the City’s opposition to SB 1070;
- Urges the City to:
 - Refrain from entering into new or amended contracts with any company headquartered in Arizona, where practicable and so long as there is no significant additional cost to the City or conflict with law;
 - Refrain from sending City officials or employees to conferences in Arizona; and
 - Review existing contracts for the purchase of goods and services with companies headquartered in Arizona and explore any opportunities to discontinue such contracts if consistent with contractual terms and fiscal responsibility;
- Encourages residents, businesses, churches, schools, organizations, associations and others in the City to boycott Arizona and Arizona-based businesses until the repeal of SB 1070;
- Encourages “comprehensive and humane” federal immigration reform legislation;

- Directs the City to send a copy of the resolution to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer; and
- Recognizes the positive value that immigrants and refugees have in the Burlington community.

The full text of the Council resolution can be found at:

<http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/docs/2160.pdf>.

SB 1070 was signed into law on April 23, 2010 and will take effect on July 29, 2010. It requires local law enforcement officers in Arizona, if an officer comes into “lawful contact” with a person, to investigate that person’s immigration status when there is reasonable suspicion that the person is in the country unlawfully. The law has sparked widespread concerns about racial profiling, legal challenges to the law, calls for national immigration reform, and campaigns to boycott Arizona and Arizona-based businesses.

In signing the resolution, Mayor Kiss emphasized Burlington’s commitment to justice and equity. “I appreciate the City Council’s action on this issue and the many residents who came to the Council meeting to support this resolution and speak out against racial profiling and bigotry. One of Burlington’s core values is the promotion of a diverse and inclusive community. We have a well-established policy and practice in opposition to racial profiling and bias in municipal law enforcement.”

The U.S. Conference of Mayors resolution recites many of the same concerns as the City Council resolution and formally opposes SB 1070 while supporting legal challenges to the law, opposes enactment of similar laws in other states, and calls for federal immigration reform. A full-text version of the resolution can be found at:

www.usmayors.org/resolutions/78th_Conference/adoptedresolutionsfull.pdf (page 67)